

CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for operating an electronic program guide displaying television programming information, comprising the following steps:

displaying a user interface indicating television programming information comprising a plurality of channels, time periods and programs configured as a program grid comprising program tiles associated with programs, wherein a user can realize when and on what channel a program is offered by viewing a program tile associated with the program, and wherein the user interface implements recording and reminding functionality by providing icons configured to be dragged and dropped by the user into a program tile associated with any program, where the icons can be seen after being dropped, to indicate desire by the user to record the program or be reminded of the program, respectively;

generating a query, in response to activation by the user of a query generating button defined by the user interface, wherein the activation of the query generating button results in display of a find window of the user interface to assist the user in creating a query, wherein the query defines a search of an electronic programming guide database, wherein the user interface is configured to allow the user may-to save the query by creating a query button defined on the user interface, and wherein the created query button modifies the user interface, and wherein the saving results in creation of a soft button, defined on the user interface, such that operation of the soft button allows a user to quickly retrieve and operate the saved query;

receiving search parameters from the find window, the parameters comprising: genre; network; rating; and program name;

displaying an advanced find window in response to selection of an advanced query button within the find window, wherein the advanced find window allows search by additional search parameters including keywords, wherein the advanced find window defines a plurality of user created searches, wherein a user created search may be saved by the user by associating the search with a tabbed folder, and wherein tabbed folders may be created and removed by operation of buttons within the advanced find window;

querying the electronic programming guide database using filters, comprising:

 a filter finding program types desired by the user; and
 a filter removing program types not desired by the user; and

 unifying plural queries using a unified query function configured to combine queries of plural individuals into a unified query, wherein the combining is performed by a Boolean AND or OR function.

2. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the following steps:

 presenting, to the viewer, a list of the channels identified by the query; and
 ordering the channels within the list according to the percentage of time that the channels are selected for viewing so that channels which are selected a higher percentage of the time appear at one place in the list and channels which are selected a lower percentage of the time appear at another place in the list.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a query to identify channels which have been selected at least a threshold amount of time to eliminate rarely selected channels from identification.
4. (Original) An electronic program guide resident in a computer-readable storage medium and executable on a processor to perform the steps of the method recited in claim 1.
5. (Original) A viewer computing unit programmed to perform the steps of the method recited in claim 1.
6. (Original) A computer-readable storage medium which directs a computer to perform the steps of the method recited in claim 1.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A method for operating an electronic program guide displaying television programming information, comprising the following steps:

displaying a user interface indicating television programming information comprising a plurality of channels, time periods and programs, wherein a user can realize when and on what channel a program is offered by viewing a program tile associated with the program, and wherein the user interface implements recording and reminding functionality by providing icons configured to be dragged and dropped by the user into a program tile associated with any program, where the icons can be seen after being dropped, to indicate desire by the user to record the program or be reminded of the program, respectively;

generating a query, in response to activation by the user of a query generating button defined by the user interface, wherein the activation of the query generating button results in display of a find window of the user interface to assist the user in creating a query, wherein the query defines a search of an electronic programming guide database, wherein the user interface is configured to allow the user may to save the query by creating a query button defined on the user interface, and wherein the created query button modifies the user interface, and wherein the saving results in creation of a soft button, defined on the user interface, such that operation of the soft button allows a user to quickly retrieve and operate the saved query;

receiving search parameters from the find window, the parameters comprising: genre; network; rating; and program name;

displaying an advanced find window in response to selection of an advanced query button within the find window, wherein the advanced find window defines a

plurality of user created searches, wherein a user created search may be saved by the user by associating the search with a tabbed folder, and wherein tabbed folders may be created and removed by operation of buttons within the advanced find window;
saving the query in a hierachic query structure; and
unifying plural queries using a unified query function configured to combine queries of plural individuals into a unified query, wherein the combining is performed by a Boolean AND or OR function.

8. **(Currently Amended)** An electronic program guide displaying television programming information, comprising:

a memory communicatively coupled to a processor, wherein computer-executable instructions are stored on the memory, and wherein execution of the instructions by the processor results in operation of:

a user interface indicating television programming information comprising a plurality of channels, time periods and programs, wherein a user can realize when and on what channel a program is offered by viewing a program tile associated with the program, and wherein the user interface implements recording and reminding functionality by providing icons configured to be dragged and dropped by the user into a program tile associated with any program, where the icons can be seen after being dropped, to indicate desire by the user to record the program or be reminded of the program, respectively;

a find window within the user interface, displayed in response to activation of a query generating button, to assist the user in creating a query, wherein the query created by operation of the find window defines a search of an electronic programming guide database, wherein the user may save the query-by-creating-a-query-button defined on the user interface, and wherein creating the query button allows the user to modify the user interface, and wherein the saving results in creation of a soft button, defined on the user interface, such that operation of the soft button allows a user to quickly retrieve and operate the saved query;

search parameters, received from the find window, the parameters comprising: genre; network; rating; and program name;

an advanced find window, displayed in response to selection of an advanced query button within the find window, wherein the advanced find window allows search by additional search parameters including keywords, wherein the advanced find window defines a plurality of user created searches, wherein a user created search may be saved by the user by associating the search with a tabbed folder displayed within the advanced find window, and wherein tabbed folders may be created and removed by operation of buttons within the advanced find window; and

a unified query function configured to combine queries of plural individuals into a unified query, wherein the combining is performed by a Boolean AND or OR function.